



MEDIA RELEASE

STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT:
MICHELLE MOWERY JOHNSON
(615) 313-4707 / OFFICE

LOCAL WOMAN EARNS NATIONAL RECOGNITION FOR HER WORK WITH TENNESSEANS WITH DISABILITIES

COUNSELOR DEDICATED TO IMPROVING LIVES IN THE UPPER CUMBERLAND

NASHVILLE, Tenn. -- A Tennessee Department of Human Services counselor is this year's recipient of the American Rehabilitation Counseling Association's (ARCA) Counselor of the Year Award. Macon County resident Barbara Gregory is a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor serving individuals with acquired and traumatic brain injuries for the entire Upper Cumberland region of the state. Gregory has worked for the Department's Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS) since the early 1990's.

Hundreds of clients with disabilities have achieved a better quality of life because of Gregory's work in the 15 county-area. She is a dedicated professional who serves on the Tennessee Rehabilitation Center Advisory Board and the Tennessee Brain Injury Advisory Council. She has also been recognized for her work with the Cookeville Area Brain Injury Support group.

"Barbara is making a real difference every day in the lives of so many individuals with disabilities," said DHS Assistant Commissioner for Rehabilitation Services Carl Brown. "The Department is extremely proud of her work and the successful outcomes that her clients are realizing. This is a well-deserved honor."

ARCA is a division of the 50,000-member strong American Counseling Association (ACA), a not-for-profit professional and educational organization. The 2005 ARCA Counselor of the Year Award was presented to Gregory at the organization's national conference in Atlanta on Friday, April 8.

There are more than 220 Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors working statewide in the Division of Rehabilitation Services. VR Counselors determine eligibility with the help of medical examinations, psychological examinations, vocational evaluations, and other diagnostic information to determine the nature and extent of the client's disability. This information assists the VR Counselor in evaluating the client's employment potential and helps the individual choose an occupational goal consistent with his or her potential. The VR Counselor is a college-trained specialist with knowledge of vocational planning and counseling. The counselor also has knowledge of the labor market, available training resources, and medical rehabilitation, and has proven skills in guiding individuals with disabilities into vocational fields where their assets will be utilized.

For more information on the Department of Human Services / Division of Rehabilitation Services, please visit: <http://www.state.tn.us/humanserv/rehabilitation.htm>

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CITIZENS PLAZA, 15TH FLOOR
400 DEADERICK STREET
NASHVILLE, TN 37248
615.313.4700